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JUL 1 '76

dried fruits

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK

FDF 1-76
May 1976**1975 WORLD RAISIN AND FIG OUTTURNS****UP; CURRANT AND PRUNE CROPS SMALLER**

World commercial raisin production in 1975 was 12 percent greater than in 1974, while currant output dropped nearly 18 percent. Prune outturns were down 2 percent; the dried fig harvest was slightly higher than in the previous year.

RAISINS AND CURRENTS

Raisin output totaled 594,000 tons 1/ compared with 530,600 tons in 1974, but dried currant production amounted to only 75,300 tons, compared with 91,800 tons in 1974.

U.S. raisin production—the world's largest—is now estimated to be 259,100 tons, up almost 19 percent from 1974's outturn, in spite of a late season. Production of raisins in the rest of the world rose about 7 percent to 335,000 tons.

Production in Turkey—the second largest raisin producer—is pegged at 115,000 tons, 35 percent larger than in 1974, primarily because of favorable weather in the summer and fall. Both the 1974 and 1973 crops were reduced by poor weather.

Greek production of 85,000 tons is 22 percent smaller than the record 1974 crop—partially a result of adverse weather, especially on Crete. The 1974 output of raisins had been swollen by diversion of an unusually large percentage of the grape crop from wine to raisins as a result of the weak market for wine in that year.

The 1975 raisin harvest in Iran, currently estimated at 62,000 tons, is 12 percent above the 1974 output of 55,000 tons and only slightly below the record 1957 crop of 65,300 tons. Raisin-type grape plantings are increasing, and improved varieties from the United States and France are gradually replacing the traditional grape varieties.

1/ All tons are metric.

Australian 1975 output is placed at 59,700 tons, 12 percent over the level achieved in 1974 but still considerably below the 1970-74 average of 67,600 tons and the 1965-69 average of 78,300 tons. With generally favorable weather conditions for harvesting and drying, quality was above average for 1975. The outlook for 1976 is for a somewhat larger pack because growing conditions have been favorable, but of lower quality. Sultana production is now forecast at 65,000 tons, 18 percent over the 1975 level. Lexia outturns are reported up by 7 percent to 4,600 tons.

Afghanistan raisin production in 1975 is reported to have been more than 40,000 tons, although official data are not available.

The 1975 world currant crop of 75,300 tons is substantially below the 1974 crop of 81,800 tons because the Greek crop dropped by 19,400 tons to 68,100 tons. Poor weather conditions in Greece not only reduced production, but also lowered quality. Australian currant production at 6,300 tons was up 75 percent from last year's level, but was below the average annual production of 7,720 tons in the period 1965-74. Currant production for 1976 sank 64 percent as a result of heavy rains during harvest, and little is expected to be available for export.

Foreign raisin shipments for this season are forecast at 235,600 tons, up 18 percent from the level achieved during the 1974/75 crop year. All countries except Spain anticipate increases in exports. Exports of raisins from the United States thus far during the 1975/76 season (September-March) are running 28 percent above the comparable period of the preceding season. Last year at this time exports were 31,056 tons, and this year they are 39,872 tons.

Raisins exports from Turkey reached 71,000 tons in the period September 1-March 15. The Government of Turkey offered raisins at a significant discount by accepting payment in Italian lira, which

were very weak against Turkish currency. This practice was terminated March 15. Greece, an important Mediterranean producer and exporter, expects to ship about 75,000 tons during the 1975/76 season. Iran and Australia anticipate substantially increased exports.

Exports of currants from Greece are forecast at 50,000 tons, compared with 47,000 the year before.

The European Community (EC) continues to be the largest world importer of raisins and currants. However, the largest market for U.S. raisins in the 1974/75 season was Japan, which took over a third of U.S. exports. The USSR purchased substantial quantities of raisins from Greece, Afghanistan, and Turkey.

The world market for raisins continued relatively weak through the end of 1975, a reflection of the slow recovery of major importing countries from the world recession. Imports of raisins and currants into the six major importing countries (Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom) during marketing year 1974/75 of 190,300 tons closely approximated year-earlier arrivals.

PRUNES

Commercial 1975 world prune production is currently estimated at 176,300 tons, 2 percent below that of a year earlier and 5 percent below the 1970-74 average. Foreign commercial production is placed at 40,200 tons, 22 percent below the 1974 level. The decline in world output can be attributed primarily to the drastic decrease in the Prune crop in France, the world's second largest producer. U.S. production is estimated at 136,100 tons, 6 percent above the 1974 crop of 128,000 tons.

A mild winter followed by late frosts during blossoming ruined the 1975 French dried prune crop, which is now estimated at 500 tons—only a small fraction of the record 1974 crop of 22,000 tons. Reportedly, the trees were not seriously damaged by the freeze. The production area has been declared a disaster area by the French Ministry of Agriculture, which will enable farmers to obtain some compensation through low-interest loans. Barring any further weather adversities, production in 1976 is expected to set a new record because of the reserve vigor of the trees. Productive capacity is also increasing as a result of orchard rejuvenation following the severe storm of 4 years ago. Therefore, production should average 24,000–25,000 tons in the coming years, which could make France virtually self-sufficient in prunes.

Yugoslavia's production is now estimated at 25,000 tons, 60 percent above 1974 output. Early season growing conditions were hampered by cold and wet weather, but conditions improved appreciably as the season progressed. The current prune production estimate is 7,000 tons higher than earlier estimated, because of a fresh plum harvest 39 percent greater than expected.

Southern Hemisphere production is estimated at 14,700 tons, compared with 13,400 tons in 1974. Australian prune production was affected by poor weather in early February, but production was still slightly greater than that of 1974. Chile's production of dried prunes—4,200 tons—is a slight increase; however, the high prices for fresh fruit led to some diversion of the crop from drying. Argentina's production of 5,500 tons is a 10 percent increase above that of a year earlier, and almost up to the 1965-74 average of 5,600 tons. South Africa's production was a near-record 2,100 tons.

Available data indicate that foreign shipments for the current season are expected to be considerably above last season's exports. While no figures are yet available for Argentina, foreign shipments for other countries and in excess of 22,000 tons. U.S. exports in the first 6 months of the 1975/76 marketing year (September-March) are running 67 percent ahead of last year's pace—40,571 tons versus 24,350 tons. Due to the disastrous crop in France, U.S. exports to that country were 10,760 tons for the first 7 months of the crop year, compared with 862 tons at this time last year. The EC has taken 63 percent of U.S. exports so far this year, compared with 47 percent at this time last year.

Exports by Yugoslavia are expected to total 18,000 tons, 53 percent above those of last year, most of which will go to the Soviet Union under an existing bilateral trade agreement. Chile's exports increased by 175 percent to 3,300 tons as a result of the excellent crop. Early reports on Argentine exports indicate drastic reductions because of noncompetitive prices.

DRIED FIGS

World dried fig commercial production in 1975 is now estimated at 91,400 tons, up slightly from 89,500 tons the year before, but still below the 1970-74 average of 104,070 tons.

Turkey's crop, the largest of the foreign producers, suffered unfavorable weather conditions and extensive scale damage, which led to an increased percentage of waste figs. Therefore, the crop of

45,000 tons, although larger than last year's 42,500 tons, was not as large as expected and is below the 1970-74 average of 48,500 tons.

Greek production of 20,100 tons was 7 percent above the 1974 harvest of 18,700 tons, but is less than the 1970-74 average of 22,400 tons. The crop was slightly reduced by high temperatures and humidity coupled with light rains during the last 2 weeks of maturity.

Italy produced 7,900 tons of figs in 1975, down from the 1974 crop of 9,000 tons. This marks a continuation of the trend toward lower production, which is blamed on declining demand.

Production in Portugal of 6,000 tons is a third over the 1974 crop of 4,500 tons, in spite of a hot, dry summer that reduced the size of a large percentage of the figs. As in most countries, fig production in Portugal is trending downward. The 1965-69 average was 11,213 tons and the 1970-74 average was 6,713 tons.

Spanish fig production in 1975 was 2,800 tons, 200 tons below the level of 1974.

U.S. production of dried figs in 1975 was a record low 9,616 tons, of which 7,257 tons were standard and 2,359 tons were substandard. The 1975 crop was 2,200 tons or 19 percent below 1974 production of 11,800 tons, and only 75 percent of the crop was up to standard, whereas in 1974 87 percent was up to standard and in 1973 the proportion was 90 percent.

World exports in 1975/76 are projected at 48,600 tons, up 6 percent from those of 1974, but below the 5-year average (1970-74) of 50,220 tons. Exports from Turkey are projected to reach 33,000 tons, conditional upon sales to the Soviet Union and Iran. This level would be slightly below 1974 exports of 33,514 tons. Early reports indicate fig paste exports to the United States are slightly below those of last season. Turkish fig paste for export to the United States was quoted at 35 cents per pound, c.i.f., in December.

Greek exports for 1975/76, estimated at 10,000 tons, are at the highest level since 1966/67. This estimate, if realized, would be 30 percent above last year's level of 7,700 tons and 28 percent more than the 1970-74 average of 7,820 tons.

Exports from Portugal, Italy, and Spain are expected to be up, but by small amounts. Portuguese exports increased from 1,300 tons last year to 2,000 tons projected for 1975/76. Italy's are forecast at 1,500 tons, compared with 1,400 tons in 1974/75, and Spain's exports are expected to total 2,100 tons, compared with 2,000 tons last year.

U.S. imports of processed figs in all forms totaled 6,226 tons in 1974/75, down 37 percent from the 9,897 tons imported in 1973/74. Fig paste imports in 1974/75 were 5,086 tons, 40 percent below last year's volume of 8,431 tons and 20 percent less than the 1967-74 average of 6,367 tons. Dried fig imports at 1,117 tons slipped 22 percent from the year-earlier level.

RAISINS: COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country and Type	1971	1972	1973	1974 ^{1/}	1975 ^{2/}
Australia					
Lexias	5.1	6.2	5.4	2.7	4.3
Sultanas	45.2	92.9	44.4	50.6	55.3
Greece	87.4	71.5	57.8	109.0	85.0
Iran	60.0	45.0	45.0	55.0	62.0
South Africa	12.2	12.6	14.9	5.4	9.5
Spain	3.3	3.0	6.0	4.7	3.8
Turkey	100.0	106.0	85.0	85.0	115.0
Foreign total	313.2	337.2	258.5	312.4	334.9
United States	173.9	95.6	203.7	218.2	259.1
Grand total	487.1	432.8	462.2	530.6	594.0

1/ Revised.2/ Revised estimate.RAISINS: EXPORTS FROM SEVEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES
MARKETING YEARS 1971-75 1/

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1971	1972	1973	1974 ^{2/}	1975 ^{3/}
Australia	44.9	74.0	39.8	26.6	41.2
Greece	84.7	55.5	46.0	74.0	75.0
Iran	40.2	38.0	30.0	34.0	44.0
South Africa	7.2	5.3	8.0	0.1	3.1
Spain	1.7	1.5	2.1	1.4	1.3
Turkey	98.2	110.6	58.0	64.2	71.0
Foreign total	276.9	284.9	183.9	200.3	235.6
United States	67.3	21.2	45.2	50.2	<u>4/</u>
Grand total	344.2	306.1	229.1	250.5	<u>4/</u>

1/ Year beginning January 1 in Australia and South Africa; September 1 in Greece, Spain, Turkey, and the United States; and September 23 in Iran.2/ Revised.3/ Estimated.4/ Data not available.

CURRENTS: PRODUCTION

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 ^{1/}
Australia	8.0	7.5	5.3	3.6	6.3
Greece	88.4	73.2	75.0	87.5	68.1
South Africa	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.9
Total	97.1	81.4	80.8	91.8	75.3

1/ Estimate revised.

CURRENTS: EXPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA AND GREECE

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975 ^{1/}
Australia	4.2	3.7	1.9	0.1	1.8
Greece	56.4	62.7	46.5	47.0	50.0

1/ Year beginning January 1 in Australia and September 1 in Greece.2/ Estimated.

RAISINS AND CURRENTS: IMPORTS INTO MAJOR IMPORTING COUNTRIES AND THE U.S.
MARKETING YEAR 1971-74 1/

Country	(In 1,000 metric tons)			
	1971	1972	1973	1974 <u>2/</u>
Canada:				
Currants	1.8	2.3	1.8	0.4
Raisins	24.4	29.0	12.4	17.9
Germany <u>3/</u>	49.2	48.2	37.7	40.8
Italy <u>3/</u>	17.4	17.9	14.3	8.7
Japan <u>3/</u>	21.7	26.7	20.3	14.7
Netherlands:				
Currants	6.9	8.3	4.9	5.7
Raisins	15.8	17.6	13.4	13.1
United Kingdom:				
Currants	42.0	49.4	30.1	34.9
Raisins	81.3	83.0	53.5	53.9
Foreign total	260.5	256.3	188.4	190.1
United States:				
Currants2	4.0	.4	.1
Raisins	3.0	2.8	1.2	<u>4/</u>
United States total <u>5/</u>	3.2	6.8	1.5	0.2
Grand total <u>5/</u>	263.7	289.2	189.9	190.3

1/ Year beginning September 1 in Canada, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, the United States and the United Kingdom; January 1 in Japan.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Separate data on raisins and currants not available.

4/ U.S. imports of raisins in 1974/75 were 24 metric tons.

5/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

RAISINS: PRICES, LANDED, DUTY PAID-LONDON
AVERAGE, JANUARY 1974 TO JANUARY 1976

Origin and Type	(In U.S. cents per pound)							
	1973-74		1974-75		1975-76			
	Jan.	July	Sept.	Jan.	July	Sept.	Jan.	
California:	:							
Thompson Natural	:							
Seedless	:	59.9	61.8	---	---	---	---	1/36.8
Australia:	:							
4-Crown	:	---	---	---	---	---	---	1/30.9
5-Crown	:	---	2/50.7	---	2/42.8	---	---	1/31.3
Greece:	:							
No. 2	:	2/44.5	46.0	45.6	---	3/29.0	3/28.8	1/28.7
No. 4	:	2/44.4	45.7	---	---	3/28.1	3/28.1	1/28.6
Iran:	:							
Maragha/Urmia	:	---	---	---	---	---	---	1/29.0
Turkey:	:							
No. 9	:	3/39.5	44.5	45.6	3/38.6	32.6	3/28.2	4/30.6
No. 10	:	3/40.2	45.4	48.6	3/40.8	34.1	3/29.3	4/31.7
	:							

1/ Week of January 31.

2/ c&f.

3/ f.o.b.

4/ Week of March 27.

PRUNES, DRIED: COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES
ANNUAL 1972-75

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974	1975 ^{1/}
Argentina	3.5	.7	5.0	5.5
Australia	2.9	3.2	2.7	2.9
Chile	4.2	3.6	4.1	4.2
France	12.5	21.0	22.0	.5
South Africa, Republic of	1.8	.9	1.6	2.1
Yugoslavia	26.6	7.6	15.6	25.0
Foreign total	51.5	37.0	51.0	40.2
United States	70.4	188.8	128.8	136.1
Grand total	121.9	225.8	179.8	176.3

1/ Revised.

PRUNES, DRIED: EXPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL PRODUCING COUNTRIES,
MARKETING YEARS 1972-75 1/

(In 1,000 metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974 ^{2/}	1975 ^{3/}
Argentina	2.6	0.6	3.3	<u>4/</u>
Australia	1.3	.7	.3	0.1
Chile	1.4	1.7	1.2	3.3
France	1.1	.7	1.6	1.0
Yugoslavia	15.0	2.9	11.8	18.0
Foreign total	21.4	6.6	18.2	<u>4/</u>
United States	31.4	53.7	43.2	<u>4/</u>
Grand total	52.8	60.3	61.4	<u>4/</u>

1/ Year beginning January 1 in Argentina, Australia, and Chile; October 1 in France; September 1 in the United States; and October 1 in Yugoslavia.

2/ Revised.

3/ Estimated.

4/ Data not available.

FIGS, DRIED: ESTIMATED COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES, ANNUAL 1971-75

Country	(In 1,000 metric tons)				
	1971	1972	1973	1974 ^{1/}	1975 ^{2/}
Turkey	50.0	55.0	45.0	42.5	45.0
Greece	23.0	24.9	20.1	18.7	20.1
Italy	18.5	12.1	10.4	9.0	7.9
Portugal	8.0	3.0	7.0	4.5	6.0
Spain	3.2	1.5	4.0	3.0	2.8
Total foreign	102.7	96.5	86.5	77.7	81.8
United States	12.1	10.1	11.3	11.8	9.6
Grand total	114.8	106.6	97.8	89.5	91.4

^{1/} Revised.

^{2/} Estimated.

FIGS, DRIED: EXPORTS FROM SPECIFIED COUNTRIES ANNUAL 1971-75; SEASON BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1

Country	(In 1,000 metric tons)				
	1971	1972	1973	1974 ^{1/}	1975 ^{2/}
Turkey	36.3	41.6	34.2	33.5	33.0
Greece	8.5	7.5	7.1	7.7	10.0
Portugal	4.7	1.5	2.6	1.3	2.0
Italy8	.3	1.3	1.4	1.5
Spain	1.4	.6	3.5	2.0	2.1
Total	51.7	51.5	48.7	45.9	48.6

^{1/} Revised.

^{2/} Forecast.

FIGS: UNITED STATES IMPORTS BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
ANNUAL 1971-74; YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1

Country	(In metric tons)			
	1971	1972	1973	1974
<u>Figs, dried:</u>				
Greece	1,175	1,625	1,197	1,041
Turkey	118	196	231	60
Italy	43	27	---	3
Others	---	---	1	13
Total	1,335	1,848	1,430	1,117
<u>Fig paste:</u>				
Turkey	347	1,051	3,698	1,945
Portugal	2,791	419	1,305	1,056
Spain	2,869	187	3,314	2,028
Others	---	20	114	57
Total	6,007	1,677	8,431	5,086
<u>Figs, prepared or preserved:</u>				
Italy	38	38	---	---
Israel	75	15	---	4
Colombia	4	31	15	5
Brazil	2	25	---	10
Others	56	3	2	4
Total	175	112	17	23
Grand total 1/	7,517	3,637	9,878	6,226

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

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